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Remarks

Upon of the entry of the amendments to the claims, claims 5, 6, 12 and 14 will be pending for consideration. The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter for claim 14. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Office Action – paragraph 1.

With regard to the objection to the language of Amendment A relating to the previous Office Action labeled as "Office Action – paragraph 2-3", applicant restates the objected to sections below to clarify this language as per the Examiner's suggestion.

Figure 26 provides an example illustrating the alternating interleaving (0246/1357 interleaving) in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The top eight rows referred to as rows 0 – 7 represent 8 frames that make up a multiframe. The last two rows in the figure are the same as the first two rows and represent the repetitive transmission of multiframe, i.e. the transmission of frames 0-1 in the next multiframe. The 8 columns correspond to the 8 bursts/time slots occurring during each frame. The alternate interleaving is illustrated by the bursts shown with the crosshatching representing bursts during which uplink speech transmission occurs. Referencing the consecutive frames (rows) starting at the top as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, it will be seen that uplink speech bursts occur in the left most time slot (column) at frames 0, 2, 4, 6 and that this alternating sequence continues from multiframe to multiframe as indicated by the last two rows. This illustrates 0246/1357 interleaving.

Figure 27 provides an example illustrating block or non-alternating interleaving (0123/4567 interleaving). This chart is similar in construction to the chart of figure 26 in that the top eight rows (0-7) represent the eight frames making up a multiframe, and the eight columns (0-7) represent the eight bursts/time slots per frame. The last two rows represent frames 0-1 in the next multiframe. In this illustrative example 4 consecutive bursts (the first time slot in frames 5, 6, 7, 0) carrying uplink speech transmissions are followed by four consecutive time slots (in the first time slot in frames 1, 2, 3, 4) that are not utilized for uplink speech transmissions. This illustrates 5670/1234 interleaving commonly referred to as 0123/4567 interleaving representing that alternating sets of four consecutive frames are used.

It is believed that the above explanations will clarify this subject matter.

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Office Action-paragraph 2.

With regard to the objection to the language of Amendment A relating to the previous Office Action labeled as "Office Action – paragraph 7", applicant confirms that the following sentence:

"As explained in the Drawing Amendment section, an inadvertent error in claim 20 is being corrected."

should read:

"As explained in the Drawing Amendment section, an inadvertent error in Fig. 20 is being corrected."

It is believed that above comments will satisfy the clarity objections.

Rejection of the Claims.

With regard to the 112 rejections of claims 4 and 13, these rejections are now moot since these claims are canceled.

Claim 14, which was indicated to have allowable subject matter in the Office Action, has been rewritten as an independent claim and hence is in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Delprat (U.S. Patent No. 5,398,247) in view of admitted prior art. It was acknowledged in the Office Action that 0246/1357 interleaving was not disclosed by Delprat.

Claim 5 currently recites that 0246/1357 interleaving is used within a multiframe consisting of a predefined number of consecutive frames. The bursts in the channel are assigned to one of even or odd frames within the multiframe so that only one of the even or odd frames is needed for communications over said channel. Since the interleaving pattern is replicated in each multiframe, this means that only even or odd frames are needed to be received by the communication device of the receiving party. This differs from the current GSM method described on page 2 of the specification of the subject patent application which requires that the communication device of the receiving party must receive both even and odd frames for receipt of a communication channel. This ability as defined by the system of claim 5 is not disclosed by Delprat or the prior art as discussed in the subject application. Hence, the combination of Delprat and the prior art as discussed in the subject application does not provide a proper basis for a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claim 5.

Claim 12 is likewise believed to not be obvious in view of the applied art for similar reasons explained for claim 5.

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If a telephone conference with applicant's attorney would further the prosecution of the subject patent application, the examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the below indicated telephone number. Favorable reconsideration is sought.

Respectfully submitted,

By Charles L. Warren

Charles L. Warren
Reg. No. 27,407

Date: 6/2/04

Customer No. 32205
630-584-9206 home office voice/fax